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Nashville, Tenn.

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Nashville, Tenn.

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## A Prefatory Word.

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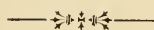
THIS little book makes no claim to the dignity of a history, nor does it offer any original contribution to the material of the history of this interesting subject. But 1896 being the centennial year of Tennessee, some salient questions, in regard to its beginning as a State, will naturally arise. These questions this pamphlet attempts to answer by a narrative of the important facts in its early history.



On the . . .

And the . . .

## Watauga ✧ Cumberland.



**J**UST as the colonies were girding themselves for the Revolutionary War, the advance guard of Western pioneers was crossing the Alleghanies and the Blue Ridge. But we are specially concerned with only a mere fragment of this band of adventurous nation builders that were breaking over the barrier of the mountains. Into that part of North Carolina now known as Tennessee this small fragment pressed its way, and so, as early as 1768, on an island in the beautiful Watauga River, ten families of settlers established themselves, thus making the beginning of the State of Tennessee. But the beauty of the hills and valleys and the fertility of the soil of what is now East Tennessee soon attracted others, who were urged also by the oppression of the British Governors of the older States. These left the homes which they had already built in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina; and founded new ones along the borders of the Watauga, the French Broad, the Holston, and Clinch Rivers.

In the Watauga settlement were two men destined to play an important part in the making of two States: Daniel Boone and James Robertson. The former, moved by the spirit of adventure, crossed the mountains to the westward and solved the mystery of the land that lay beyond. Bringing back to the Watauga marvelous and almost incredible accounts of the richness of the soil of the new country and the abundance of its game, a large party returned with him, following the paths of the deer and buffalo, to make a settlement; and thus Watauga is, in a sense, the mother of Kentucky.

When Boone and his party left, James Robertson remained

behind, busily engaged in building a cabin and clearing some land to plant a small crop of corn in the spring. But he looked to the high mountains toward the west, and he too became keenly curious to know the land beyond them; so he prepared himself at once, and, bidding his comrades farewell, turned his face again to the west. For three days he struggled with labor and pain through tangled undergrowth and brier bushes. On the third day the clouds obscured the sun, and even this practiced woodsman was lost in the untrodden forest. He was compelled to turn his horse loose, and, subsisting on roots and berries, he dragged himself along on foot until finally, through sheer exhaustion, he fell down thoroughly discouraged. But he heard the sound of a hunter's horn, and feebly called for help. John Greer and Jonas Cartwright came to his relief, and put new life into his jaded spirit by telling him that a few miles farther he could look down upon the hills and valleys of an exceedingly fair country. Thus what is now Middle Tennessee came into the realization of its future founder.

The two hunters nursed him tenderly in their rude hut until he was strong enough to make the journey back to Watauga, he dreaming all the time, no doubt, of claiming from beast and savage the lands of which he had heard.

On his return to the settlement he found everything in a state of turmoil and trouble. The settlers were organizing themselves into bands called "Regulators," in order to resist the encroachments of the Royalists upon their rights. The spirit of Lexington and Bunker Hill was stirring vigorously among these extreme western guardians of American civilization. The result was the unsuccessful battle of Alamance, May 16, 1771, in which they actually fought against Gov. Tryon and the regular British troops. This shows the temper of the men who were to be the founders of the great State of Tennessee.

It is very probable that Capt. Robertson with his company participated in this battle. Fearing that the trouble was not over, he joined his wife and family in Wake Coun-

ty, N. C. But his heart was still in the West, and a short while afterwards he led a large party of emigrants to the Watauga settlement. This company of emigrants really fled from the oppression of Gov. Tryon. Hence it is not surprising to find, just one year after the battle of Alamance, the organization of the remarkable "Watauga Association," which, if taken in its full meaning, is virtually a declaration of independence. At any rate, it was the first attempt at independent civil government west of the mountains. James Robertson, John Sevier, and eleven others were chosen commissioners to draw up a compact of agreement and government. For six years the settlement was an independent little republic, until 1778, when it became Washington County of North Carolina. It was these same men who, a few years later, broke the tide of British success in the South, and made King's Mountain the turning point of the Revolutionary War.

It would seem now that the men of Watauga would want to enjoy the well-earned pleasures and advantages of comparative security, and gather the fruits of peace. But not so; their mission was still westward, and the earnest pioneer felt that there was no rest for him so long as there were savage men to conquer, trees to fell, bridges to be built, waste places to reclaim, and cities to be founded. In this spirit, together with the natural zest for adventure which strong men feel, in the spring of 1779, Capt. James Robertson, George Freeland, William Neely, John Greer, John Handly, William Overall, and others set out for the valley of the Cumberland in order to plant a small crop, and thus prepare the way for the larger body of settlers whom Robertson was organizing to be the "advance guard of Western civilization."

This was the beginning of the first serious attempt to settle the district of country now known as Davidson County. The very great abundance of large game had attracted such adventurous huntsmen and traders as the Frenchmen, De Monbreun and Charleville, and Jasper Mansker, Sharp, Holliday, and Spencer.

After preparing in a rude way for those who were to follow, Capt. Robertson and his associates returned to the Watauga; but they did not tarry long. On November 1, 1779, he, Robertson, led his band of pioneers on a toilsome, trying journey toward their future home on the Cumberland. In spite of snow and storm and unusually bitter winter weather, on Christmas Day the weary but dauntless travelers reached the Cumberland River at a point just opposite the Nashville bluffs. On a cheerless winter day they crossed on the frozen river and at once set themselves to work building rude log huts and fortresses for the shelter and protection of the women and children who were following by water under the charge of Col. Donelson. In one of the boats Capt. Robertson himself had his wife and five children and other relatives. But this remarkable journey of many miles down the Watauga, into the Holston, thence into the Tennessee, into the Ohio, and up the Cumberland to the French Lick, was accomplished in the midst of frequent attacks of Indians, dangers of storm and water, and the horrors of a contagious disease.

For the purpose of defense, this band on the Cumberland resolved itself into a military organization with Capt. Robertson in command; John Donelson, lieutenant colonel; Robert Lucas, major; and George Freeland, Isaac Bledsoe, James Leiper, John Rains, and Andrew Buchanan each in command of a company. Near the French Lick there were eight stations or blockhouses into which the people would gather in times of danger: The Bluff, Mansker's, Bledsoe's Lick (now Castalian Springs), Fort Union (now Hayesboro), Eaton's, and Stone's River, near the Hermitage.

Just here it may be well to give an account of the relations of the first settlers of Tennessee with their terrible foes—the Indians, the aboriginal inhabitants of the State. From the beginning, in spite of all efforts at conciliation, every attempt at settlement was disputed by the savages, and their wary cunning and bravery was met by a superior cunning and bravery on the part of those who came from the Caro-

linas and Virginia to plant the seeds of a State between the mountains of East Tennessee and along the valleys of its rivers. The result was that the men of the Watauga and the Cumberland not only cleared the soil to raise food from, not only hewed the wood to build shelter for themselves and families, not only hunted the wild game whose meat gave them sustenance and whose skin gave them clothing; but each was always a soldier, ever on the watch against a relentless and treacherous foe—a soldier in the cornfield, in the hunt, and around the fireside. And the story of the lives of the makers of Tennessee under such trying conditions is the cherished familiar possession of their descendants; and one need not go to the pages of fictitious romance to find the golden qualities of manly endeavor and womanly sacrifice. These golden qualities shine in the very truth of the narrative of their adventures.

The natural hatred of the Indians was kept perpetually fanned: first, by the intrigues of the French and Spanish traders of the southwest and west, jealous of the thin line of English settlers gradually creeping over the Alleghanies and moving toward the Mississippi valley; then by the British, when the war of the Revolution broke out, endeavoring by plots and wiles to unite the great northern and southern tribes in one grand alliance, and with them to fall, with all the horrors of Indian warfare, upon the rear of the seaboard colonists who were fighting so manfully for their independence. It is on this account that Gilmore aptly calls this handful of heroic riflemen the “rear guard of the Revolution.” Thus, not only as the authors of the first declaration of independence at Mecklenburg, May, 1776, not only as the break against the tide of British success at King’s Mountain, but also in holding the Watauga and Cumberland settlements, in boldly carrying the war into the very towns of the Indian, thus bending his spirit to theirs, John Sevier, James Robertson, Evan Shelby, Isaac Shelby, and others were, in defending their own homes, defending also the homes along the seaboard.



The first regularly organized plan on the part of the Indians to exterminate the settlers was undertaken by the strong tribes of the Cherokees under the noted chiefs, Dragging Canoe and Old Abraham. These plans meant skillfully concerted attacks all along the line of the settlements on the Clinch and the Holston Rivers, and at Watauga. At every exposed point the Indians carried death and destruction, yet the settlers managed to beat them off. It was at the defense of Watauga that John Sevier saw his future bride, Kate Sherrill, surprised by a band of Indians on the outside of the fort, run with the fleetness of a deer, literally club her way through a band of howling savages, leap the palisade, and fall into his own arms—a fit bride for the heroic pioneer and first Governor of Tennessee.

These attacks were but a part of a very formidable conspiracy instigated by the British for the purpose of destroying the outlying settlements and then pressing on to the coast. The colonists recognized the greatness of the danger, and at once organized several expeditions to go from different directions upon the Indians. These different forces, commanded by Col. Jack and Col. Bury, from Georgia; Gen. Williamson, from South Carolina; Col. Christine, Col. Sevier, Col. Shelby, and Gen. Rutherford, were all successful, and by active, vigorous measures the power of the Indians in what is now East Tennessee, North Georgia, and the Western Carolinas was forever crippled.

But how fares it at the hands of the Indians with the little band who had landed at the bluffs of the Cumberland in the drear winter of 1779 and the early spring of 1780? Thinly scattered for thirty miles along the river, it would seem that they would be an easy prey for treacherous bands of prowling savages. But watchful eyes, strong arms, and stout hearts stood in the place of numbers, even when failure seemed inevitable. And now in the light of the present, when men have enjoyed peace and security so long that they shrink from trouble and danger, it is hard to understand why the pioneer suffered and died to hold a wilderness

in the West, with civilization behind him in the East. That he held it against the savage, and claimed it for the arts and institutions of civilized life, is why we celebrate with festal joy, with civic and industrial display, the year that ends a hundred years of State life.

The winter of 1780 found the settlers on the banks of the Cumberland in dire straits. An overflow of the Cumberland had partially destroyed their crops; the Indians cut off any who dared to get beyond the range of the forts, and threatened always a general attack; there was scarcely a family out of whose number one or more had not been killed; in less than a year the little band had been depleted almost one-half; their ammunition had nearly all given out. Thus they faced the dreary prospects of the coming winter without supplies, without powder, with thinned ranks, and surrounded on all sides with relentless foes. Under such conditions it is not surprising that the stoutest and bravest wavered and were ready to give up the enterprise that cost them so much and abandon it again to the wilderness and the savage. So despairing and hopeless were they that had not Robertson infused his courage and unconquerable spirit into his comrades they would have faced the perils of the journey back to their old homes at Watauga. But they determined to stand with him and grimly face the dangers around them. Robertson and Isaac Bledsoe bravely slipped through the Indian lines, undertaking for the sake of the others the perilous journey to Boonesboro and Harrod's Station, in order to obtain powder and other supplies. This journey they safely accomplished in two months, bringing to their desponding comrades on the Cumberland the inspiring news of the victory of King's Mountain and what it meant to the cause of American liberty. So with new courage they took up their own battle with the savages around them. The Indians attacked the settlers and drove them into the fort standing upon the spot now known as the corner of Cherry and Demonbreun Streets. A few days later Col. Robertson discovered them on the "Knob," the hill

upon which the Capitol now stands, rejoicing because they had scalped his son and a young man named Hood, and left them for dead. He sallied out to meet them, and succeeded in bringing in the bodies of the young men after a desperate struggle. During this struggle his intrepid wife stood upon the lookout of the fort with rifle in hand, intently watching its issue. Seeing the Indians in pursuit, she turned loose upon them forty savage hounds, thanking God that he had put into the Indian "a love of horses and a fear of dogs." Hood, the young man who was scalped on this occasion, lived many years to tell to his descendants the story of his horrible experience. Another pitched battle, known as the "Battle of White's Creek," took place across the Cumberland. In this several settlers lost their lives.

But it was not so much in the open battles that the pioneers suffered as in the stealthy attacks upon small parties when they were least expecting them. At no time was there any security against such attacks, whether in the field, on the hunt, or around the fireside.

Robertson and his associates were again cheered and strengthened by glorious news from the East. John Sevier and Evan Shelby had gained decisive victories over the Indians, and Cornwallis had surrendered to Washington at Yorktown. The men in the wilderness felt that their cause was one with their kinsmen on the coast.

But their rejoicing was not of long duration. Alarming news was brought that the Indians were forming alliances to make one great effort to crush out utterly the western settlement. The head of this alliance was the Creek chief McGillivray, a man with more white than Indian blood in his veins, who had been educated abroad, thus adding to the treacherous cruelty and cunning of the Indian the polish and intellectual training of the white man. It is said that behind McGillivray there were nearly twenty thousand warriors, led not only by his skill, but also kept always fired for vengeance by the intrigues of the Spanish.

Robertson realized that a crisis had come in the life of the



settlement, now eight years old. It was in the year 1788, and these eight years in the wilderness had meant much to them. In spite of hardships and dangers the colony had grown; from time to time newcomers would cast their lot with them. Immediately after the Revolutionary War large bodies of land were given by the State of North Carolina to the veterans of the war in payment for their services. Many of these came, very materially strengthening the settlement in spirit and in the number of trained fighting men. Fields had been cultivated, houses built, and around these fields and houses had already begun to gather the "home feeling." In view of these conditions, and in the presence of the greatest danger that had ever threatened them, Robertson called together the settlers, in order to decide what was best to be done. But they all looked to him as their leader, and begged that he, first of all, advise what to do. Appreciating fully the gravity of the situation, his words were: "Whether we go or stay, we may all be destroyed. We can go to the fort and prepare ourselves for them [the Indians]. As for me and my family, we will stay."

His courage and determination were communicated to all, and they unanimously agreed to remain and share his fate, whatever that might be. Active measures were therefore entered upon for defense. In the meantime, however, Robertson tried the arts of diplomacy, so he wrote to both the Spanish agent and to McGillivray, protesting against hostilities. Of course both of these treacherous enemies, especially the latter, were for *peace*. McGillivray claimed, however, that the tribes were all justly incensed on account of Robertson's attack upon the Indian town of Coldwater, on the Tennessee River, the year previous. This attack Robertson made in the year 1787 because he could no longer endure the persistent and cruel warfare that the Indians kept up upon the settlement. Hence in that year he collected all his fighting men in order to try Sevier's plan of boldly carrying the war into the heart of the enemy's country. This expedition was signally successful, and the town of Cold-

water, on the Tennessee River, was completely destroyed, the Indians losing twenty-six warriors. The effect of this was to give the settlers peace for a short time.

Notwithstanding his supposed wrongs, however, McGillivray agreed to a peace. But in reality the Indians never ceased committing their murders and horrible outrages. It is not necessary to continue the story of these outrages longer; the meager account already given will serve to suggest, only faintly perhaps, what the settlers had to endure in their attempt to found a State, and it was not until the year 1794 that they obtained anything like freedom from these attacks, though their policy was always one of conciliation. In this year Gen. Robertson, Col. Whitley, and Maj. Ore led what is known as the "Nickajack" expedition against five Indian towns on the Tennessee River, carrying destruction among them and shattering their power.

But from the narrative of these few pages it must not be concluded that the settlers on the Cumberland were doing nothing else but fighting Indians. They were doing many things besides, and chief among them they were laying the foundations of a free State.

The Cumberland settlers, in May, 1780, just a few weeks after the arrival of the Donelson party, drew up articles organizing their little company into a form of representative government, with executive and legislative powers vested in the "Tribunal of Notables," a committee made up of representatives from each of the eight stations. This mere handful of Americans on the very outskirts of civilization going through with these dignified formalities of government, with apparently more important matters pressing upon them, seems almost a mockery of civil government. Be this as it may, it represents the habit of the Anglo-Saxon everywhere: the habit by which he has persistently maintained his free institutions all through the centuries.

Just five years after these articles of association, permission was granted by the Legislature of North Carolina to lay off the town of Nashville, so named by Gen. Robertson in

honor of his friend, Gen. Nash, an officer of Revolutionary War fame. Two hundred acres of land were divided into lots of one acre each, to be sold for four pounds of "lawful money," with the assurance that the purchaser would build a house. Thus the present corporation of the city of Nashville was begun.

In the meantime, at Greenville, November 14, 1784, the "first Legislative Assembly ever convened in Tennessee" met and elected John Sevier Governor of the newly organized State of Franklin. This condition of affairs came of the dissatisfaction felt with the conduct of North Carolina with reference to the western settlements. When the war of the Revolution closed these settlements expected of the home government better management of their affairs, especially better protection from the Indians. But after many requests, neither the better management nor a more thorough protection from the Indians came. The result was that the old spirit of independence asserted itself, and with Sevier as Governor, the "State of Franklin," so called in honor of Benjamin Franklin, lived for four years in open rebellion against the mother State until Sevier was defeated in a conflict with State authorities, and was forever disbarred from holding a political office. This prohibition was subsequently removed, and in 1790 he had the honor of taking his seat as the first Congressman ever elected from the Mississippi Valley.

On the 2d of April, of the same year, George Washington, as President of the United States, signed an act approving the cession of the district now comprising the State of Tennessee from North Carolina. William Blount was commissioned Territorial Governor August 7, 1790. The territory was divided into two general divisions: the Washington District, comprising what is now the East Tennessee counties; and the Mero District, comprising the Middle Tennessee counties. Of the former district John Sevier was appointed major general; and James Robertson, of the latter. The President made David Campbell Territorial Judge, and Gov.

Blount appointed Daniel Smith Secretary for the new Territory. Thus organized, it grew vigorously on toward statehood, its most perplexing trials coming from the Indians, who disputed every stage of its progress.

In the year 1792 Hugh Lawson White incorporated the town of Knoxville. Here Gov. Blount held the seat of his government. Knoxville remained the capital until the year 1813, when it was removed to Nashville; then again it was carried back to Knoxville. For a short time it was at Murfreesboro, but since 1820 Nashville has remained the capital city.

June 1, 1796, is the significant day in the history of Tennessee, for upon the record of the Congress of the United States we find the following act:

Whereas, by the acceptance of the deed of cession of the State of North Carolina, Congress are bound to lay out into one or more States the territory thereby ceded to the United States.

*Be it enacted, etc.,* That the whole of the territory ceded to the United States by the State of North Carolina shall be one State, and the same is hereby declared to be one of the States of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, by the name and title of the State of Tennessee. That in the next general census the State of Tennessee shall be entitled to one Representative in the House of Representatives of the United States; and in all other respects, as far as they may be applicable, the laws of the United States shall extend to and have force in the State of Tennessee in the same manner as if the State had originally been one of the United States.

Approved June 1, 1796.

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

*President of the United States.*

JONATHAN DAYTON,

*Speaker of the House;*

SAMUEL LIVERMORE,

*Speaker of the Senate pro tem.*

Thus, just twenty-eight years after the little band of heroic souls took their place on the island in the Watauga, Tennessee was admitted into the sisterhood of States. Andrew Jackson, destined to be one of her greatest citizens, gave to her the beautiful name of Tennessee. This was the mu-

sical epithet by which the Indians designated that majestic stream that came out of her mountains, bent its way around the farthest borders of the western settlements, and poured its waters through the "dark and bloody ground" into the Ohio.

Already, however, in anticipation of the act of Congress, the Legislature and Senate of Tennessee convened at Knoxville on March 28 of the same year. The result of the recent election were ascertained to be that "Citizen John Sevier is duly and constitutionally elected Governor of this State." And on the 30th of March, in the presence of both Houses and of the retiring territorial Governor, William Blount, he was inaugurated first Governor of the State for which he had done so much. He had led them when they had been a meager band of a few hundred pioneers; now, as Governor, he was the leader of nearly seventy thousand people, henceforth calling themselves Tennesseans. Thus, with John Sevier as her first Governor, Tennessee entered upon the first year of her history as a State; and after a hundred years her people are celebrating this year and this event.

In the short account of the facts that led to the making of the State two names have appeared in these pages oftener than any others, the names of John Sevier and James Robertson. Through the enterprise, the courage, the endurance, and faith of these two men Tennessee became a State. Both were leaders full of resources, and always capable of inspiring confidence and dependence in their followers. To Sevier the parent settlement on the Watauga owed the victory in its strenuous struggle for existence; to the western settlement on the Cumberland James Robertson stood in the same relation. Without both the history of Tennessee would not have been what it is. Hence, in this centennial year, the State, looking back of the bare date, 1796, that marks its birth, sees these two commanding figures molding the forces that made this birth a possibility; and, in recognition of what they were and what they did, gratefully keeps their



names and their history indissolubly joined with her name and her history.

Both, however, were rewarded by being permitted to live long enough to see the infant State, of which each has been called "father," pass into a prosperous and vigorous youth, free from the dangers and hardships which had so sorely beset them. Robertson died September 1, 1815, among the Chickasaw Indians; still, though a very old man, giving his services to his country. Sevier died June 24, in the same year, being employed on a government mission in North Alabama. Both were interred where they died, but in 1825 the remains of Robertson were brought to Nashville and buried in the old city cemetery, where only a simple stone marks his last resting place; while just a few years ago the Legislature of Tennessee had Sevier's dust brought from North Alabama to Tennessee. It was reinterred in the courthouse yard at Knoxville, and over his grave has been erected a monument to his memory.

A fitting close for this sketch of the early history of Tennessee would be something of the resources of the country rescued from the savage and the wilderness by the men of the Watauga and the Cumberland. In the first place, before entering upon the material resources of the State, it should be mentioned that Tennessee has always been a land of churches and schools. The Methodist circuit rider, the Baptist and the Presbyterian preacher, came with the pioneer to his new home and softened the hardships of frontier life with the comforts and promises of the gospel. And so it was a God-fearing folk that crossed the mountains with rifle and ax to prepare the way for the churches and religious institutions of all denominations. Moreover, being principally Scotch-Irish, they brought with them that race's decided appreciation of the value and need of education. Hence as soon as the pioneer had built a shelter for himself and family his next step was to build a log house for school and religious purposes. As early as 1785 Rev. Samuel Doak, a graduate from old Princeton, founded Martin Acad-

emy, said to be the first school west of the Alleghany Mountains. Later, in the same year, James Robertson rode horseback a distance of over twelve hundred miles to the Legislature of North Carolina and obtained a charter, with a grant of two hundred and forty acres of land, for Davidson Academy. Rev. Thomas Craighead, also a graduate of Princeton, was elected first president, and it was opened in the following year at Haysboro, six miles east of Nashville. By various changes the present Normal College and University of Nashville may be called the descendant of Davidson Academy. From such a beginning as this Tennessee to-day is dotted with prosperous academies and colleges, with here and there a university to crown the entire system. To this may be added a rapidly improving common school system.

Tennessee is far famed for its natural resources. The first pioneer could not have conceived what was in store for him. Stretching from the lowlands of the great Mississippi River to the ragged peaks of the Appalachian chain of mountains on the east there are forty-two thousand and fifty square miles, or twenty-seven million acres of land.

The great Civil War upturned the system of slavery. Like her sister States of the South, time has been required to recover from its disastrous effects. Yet she has rallied and come to the front, fully alive to the advantages and opportunities. Of our four larger cities, each one is found in a prosperous condition, in spite of depressing times. Nashville is called the "Athens of the South." It is well to state here that Memphis, the beautiful city on the bluff, was the first inland cotton market. In the year 1851 Col. John Pope, of Shelby County, received the medal for the finest cotton on exhibition at the London Exposition. Memphis is a progressive, wide-awake city, and her people are full of enterprise. Chattanooga is called Pittsburg No. 2—a city so thrifty and progressive that it has increased more rapidly than either of the four principal cities. Knoxville, a great industrial center, has had a wonderful degree of development. A large portion of East Tennessee abounds in coal, iron, and

a variety of beautiful marble, the like not known in many places. Through Col. Hardee Murfree, for whom it bears its name, Murfreesboro was incorporated in the year 1797. His descendants there are doing honor to his name, among the rest Miss Fannie Murfree, author of "Felicia," and Miss Mary ("Charles Egbert Craddock"). Columbia, famous for her intellectual people, is the county seat of Maury, one of the finest counties for stock raising and cotton production. Williamson County effected organization in 1799. Commissioners named Franklin, the county seat, in honor of Benjamin Franklin. Clarksville, on the Cumberland (Indian name Shawnee), is famous for being headquarters of Clarksville tobacco for many years. In the year 1851 Clarksville tobacco received the premium at the London Exposition for the best tobacco on exhibition. It is shipped to Germany, France, and Spain. Northern counties of West Tennessee also raise fine tobacco. They have many thriving towns and villages, and raise fine cotton. The West Tennessean loves his money crops, as he calls them, caring little for other produce except for home consumption. If he rents his land on account of over abundance to work, he prefers the cotton to the money in payment.

Sheep raising has been on the decline in Tennessee for many years, although she possesses natural advantages for grazing purposes. Mark R. Cockrill, a nephew of Gen. James Robertson, whose mother came over with John Donelson on the flagship "Adventure," won the medal in the year 1851 at the great London Exposition for the finest specimen of wool on exhibition.

Lebanon, the county seat of Wilson, has always been considered a place of schools of the highest character. Many distinguished men have attended the literary and law school of Lebanon.

Gallatin, the county seat of old Sumner, is full of memorable events of the past. Sumner County farmers love fine stock, and take great care in the selection of the breed of horses and cattle.



The first cotton grown west of the mountains was planted by Capt. John Donelson in the year 1780, near the "Hermitage," on the east side of the Cumberland River. Maury, Giles, Hickman, and portions of Davidson and Williamson Counties raise cotton. In the year 1890 one hundred thousand bales were raised; in the year 1892 eight hundred thousand bales were raised in Tennessee—a wonderful increase.

Pulaski, Giles's county seat, is a lovely place, full of enterprising, churchgoing people. Shelbyville, the county seat of Bedford, is a thriving town with rich surroundings. Jackson is the county seat of the productive county of Madison. The most important town of West Tennessee, next to Memphis, is Jackson. High up in the mountains we find Sewanee, the lovely little village which contains our University of the South. McMinnville, the county seat of Warren, is the home of the old man of the mountain, Col. John Savage. Winchester, the county seat of Franklin, raises fine corn, an abundance of hogs, fruits, and vegetables, and possesses fine schools. Winchester is famous. Springfield is the county seat of Robertson, named for Gen. James Robertson. Robertson County raises wheat and fine corn. Much of the corn is used in the manufacture of that fine whisky known nearly all over the world—Robertson County whisky.

The cultivation of the peanut was introduced into Hickman County by Jesse George, who brought the seed from North Carolina. Discovering the soil to be of a gravelly nature, therefore suitable for its production, he planted his first crop with great success, and afterwards it was cultivated in Humphreys, Perry, and other counties. The crops at this time are valued very highly, being shipped all through our own country as well as across the waters.

As to timber, no State in the United States can be compared to Tennessee. In passing through this country, factories for the manufacture of furniture and plows of Tennessee hard wood are noticed, as well as hard-wood mantels. The swamp lands contain large bodies of cypress, while the hills are covered with oak, hickory, and other varieties. East

Tennessee abounds with heavy forests of hemlock, pine, spruce, and twelve varieties of oak. Red oak grows in nearly every portion of the State. Black walnut abounds in the rich lands; chestnut, on the ridges of East Tennessee and in a small portion of the gravelly soil of Middle Tennessee. Several varieties of poplar measuring twenty-five feet in circumference are found in many localities. Sycamore, which is very valuable wood, abounds on the borders of all the streams in the State. Black and white locust are plentiful.

The manufacture of whisky dates back to 1775. Gen. James Robertson, learning of the building of distilleries for the manufacture of whisky, obtained the passage of an act to prohibit their erection. After many years the law was repealed, and Tennessee has since furnished her portion of fine whisky. Robertson, Stewart, and Montgomery Counties, and a portion of Sumner, manufacture whisky.

The mining and shipping of phosphate rock is a most important industry, and very little is known of its wonderful development. The rock is found at this time in Hickman and Lewis Counties, and has probably been discovered at other points. On the line of the Nashville and Tuscaloosa branch of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis railroad, sixty miles west of Nashville, the Southwestern, Swan Creek, and Duck River Companies, also the Tennessee Mining Company, are in operation. Crushers are used, the rock being powdered and utilized for fertilizing purposes.

# Early Settlers on the Watauga and the Cumberland.



JAMES ROBERTSON,  
CHARLES ROBERTSON,  
ELIJAH ROBERTSON,  
VALENTINE SEVIER,  
DANIEL BOONE,  
ROBERT BOONE,  
JAMES SHAW,  
CAPT. LEIPER,  
JAMES FREELAND,  
JOHN DONELSON,  
JOHN RAINS,  
CORNELIUS RIDDLE,  
SAMUEL DOAK,  
JAMES WHITE,  
DAVID CAMPBELL,  
JOHN TUCKER,  
JOHN SAUNDERS,  
ROBERT HAYS,  
ANTHONY HART  
JOHN HUNTER,  
JONAS GREER,  
JAMES WILKERSON,  
LARDNER CLARKE,  
JOHN GREER,  
GEORGE GREER,  
ABSALOM TATUM,  
ISAAC SHELBY,  
DAVID SHELBY,  
EVAN SHELBY,  
JOHN SHELBY,  
ANTHONY BLED SOE,  
ISAAC BLED SOE,  
RICHARD HENDERSON,  
JOHN DOAK,

JOHN TIPTON,  
MOSES RENFROE,  
ROBERT CARTWRIGHT,  
JOHN BEAN,  
ISAAC ROBERTS,  
JOHN ADAIR,  
JOHN GENTRY,  
WILLIAM GENTRY,  
JOHN FLOOD,  
JOHN GRIFFITH,  
JOHN SEVIER,  
WILLIAM BLOUNT,  
JAMES BLOUNT,  
ELIJAH POLK,  
JAMES POLK,  
JAMES KNOX,  
JOHN KNOX,  
HENRY KNOX,  
PETER BRYANT,  
JOHN RUDDLE,  
THOMAS GILBERT,  
MATTHIAS MAHER,  
JOHN STROTHER,  
JAMES HUBBARD,  
ZACHARIAH COX,  
THOMAS D. CRAIGHEAD,  
JOHN CRAIGHEAD,  
DAVID HOSS,  
CÆSAR HOSS,  
DAVID SMITH,  
JOHN GORDON,  
JOHN COLBERT,  
JOHN LEWIS,  
and others.

## Clippings from Records.

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THE trip of that wonderful boat, the "Adventure," Col. John Donelson commanding, was certainly a venturesome undertaking. The names of those on board were as follows: John Donelson, Thomas Hutchings, John Caffrey, John Donelson, Jr., Mark Robertson, Charles Robertson, Mrs. James Robertson and five children, Mrs. Purnell, M. Rounsifer, James Cain, Mrs. Ann Cockrill, Isaac Neeley, Jonathan Jennings, Benjamin Belew, Peter Looney, Capt. John Blackmore, Hugh Rogan, Daniel Chambers, Robert Cartwright, Moses Renfroe, James John, William Crutchfield, Hugh Henry, Sr., Benjamin Porter, Mrs. Mary Henry (widow), John Boyd, John Cockrill, John White, Solomon White, Daniel Durham, John Gibson, Solomon Turpin. A party had gone before, including Gen. Robertson. Log huts were awaiting most of the newcomers. Had the weather not been the severest on record, the party might have suffered fearfully from the Indians. Approach to the Cumberland settlement before 1785 was through the wild woods of Kentucky. The Legislature of North Carolina provided an armed force to protect the buffalo paths. Robertson and Bledsoe were trusted friends and regular attendants upon the Legislature, and generally were of great importance to the community. When the two began to get ready for the journey they had many things to think of, a pack horse or two being necessary to answer the demands of the mothers on the return of these great men.

In March, 1784, ten pack horses arrived, after a six-weeks' journey from Philadelphia, the roads over the Cumberland Mountains being impassable for wagons.

---

Gen. Robertson had an abhorrence of the Creeks and Spaniards. He once said: "The Spaniards are inspired by

the devil, the Creeks by the devil and the Spaniards, and the worst devil in human form is the Creek chief, McGillivray." Gen. Robertson corresponded with Mero, Spanish Governor of Louisiana, to secure his good will, and went so far as to name the Cumberland settlement for him.

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Next to Robertson the most valuable member of the settlement on the Cumberland was Col. Anthony Bledsoe. He settled at a place in Sumner County now called Castalian Springs, and lived in a station with the family of his brother Isaac. On the night of July 20, 1788, he was mortally wounded.

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Under date of November 28, 1788, Gen. Robertson states: "The new road from Campbell's Station was opened, and the guard attended parties. About sixty families had passed over, among whom were Judge McNairy and the family of the late Gen. Davidson."

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#### SETTLEMENT OF WEST TENNESSEE.

That portion of Tennessee west of the Tennessee River was not settled until the State was in a flourishing condition. The lands were owned by the Chickasaws. In 1739 the French made an attempt to dispossess the Chickasaws of the Bluff (now Memphis), but were defeated. The attempt was renewed in 1740 by Bienville. They ascended the river in little boats and made an attempt to make peace. In 1782 Gen. Robertson used Chickasaw Bluffs as a depot, from which he sent supplies to the Indians. The Spanish Governor, Gayosa, appeared at the Bluff. Complaint was made to Gen. Blount by the Chickasaws. In 1796 a treaty was made between Spain and the United States, which settled all.

---

The first iron furnace built in Tennessee was in 1790, at Elizabeth, Carter County. Others were built in Greene and Johnson Counties in 1797. In the following year Cum-

berland Furnace was erected on Iron Fork of Benton Creek, in Dickson County, seven miles from the village of Charlotte—named by Gen. James Robertson for his wife.

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Among the early settlers corn bread was the only bread in use. The first treadmill was built in 1775, on Buffalo Creek, Carter County, and a hominy pounder was built at Eaton's Station in 1782. Big hominy pots for boiling were in use. Each farmer had his vat, and every member of the family was well shod. A funny story is related of our great ancestors: It is said that they secured cow horns and polished them and kept them in use to take their toddy. When a friend would call the horns were filled, and the visitor asked to take a "horn." Hence the expression often heard.

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A thrilling incident I have heard related by my grandmother, youngest daughter of James Robertson. I love to tell of the heroic little woman, Charlotte Robertson. The men of the fort were off planting corn in the bend of the river (now West Nashville). The dogs, making an incessant howl, gave warning of the nearness of the savages. The brave Mrs. Robertson saddled her horse, prepared her baby boy (Felix Robertson, first male child born in Nashville), only a few months old, secured her gun, with ammunition, and placed it in the hands of Cæsar, a ten-year-old negro boy. She then mounted her horse, taking her baby in front and Cæsar, with his gun, behind, turned the dogs loose, and securely locked all hands inside the fort. She in haste left for the field to find her husband to have him be prepared for his *friends*, the Indians. The dogs refused to follow, but left for Buchanan's Station, where the settlers were confined to the stockade by overwhelming numbers. Mrs. Buchanan and companions were molding bullets, as well as using the portholes for the same. The dogs made for the Indians. Mrs. Buchanan, encouraged to know that they were being relieved, gave them full benefit of their regiment of dogs. Whooping and yelling, the Indians fled. Besides



a heroic little woman in times of need, Mrs. Robertson was possessed of the tenderest of feelings. She had three sons killed by the Indians, one of them twelve years of age, named Peyton. Only a short time after the loss of her boy she gave birth to another. The father suggested that they name him Peyton, but no reply came from the mother's lips. While a baby she would speak of him as "my baby;" later on, "my son;" when he became a physician, it was "my son, the doctor." She could never be reconciled to have her boy's place taken, but he remained her "baby boy, Peyton."

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It is related that "on one cold morning, with ice in the river, a number of unexpected horsemen made their appearance on the Cumberland. Several of the party were sick. 'Who are you?' said Gen. Robertson. The answer was given: 'We are Tories.' Each one had fought against the country. They wanted to live in peace, but had nothing but their strong arms to offer. Being granted protection, they would use them in defense of the settlement. Most of the settlers had fought under John Sevier. Like him, intense in their feelings, they opposed the Tories coming on the Cumberland, preferring Indians. But Robertson opposed their decision. 'This is a free country,' said he, 'in which no man should suffer for an opinion. In other words, they repent, and want space for repentance, and we have space enough for the same and space enough to spare. If they show themselves worthy, I propose to let them stay; if they do not, we are stronger than they. If their acts deserve it, hang them to the nearest tree.' The colony was thereby enforced by twenty good citizens."

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The first capitol building of Tennessee was a log house eighteen feet square, with a lean-to of twelve feet on one side of the house. It was furnished with benches, a bar, a table for the use of court and jurors. The prison was of the same size and dimensions. The dwellings were of logs

chinked with clay. The inside furniture consisted of split-bottom chairs, a rough pine table, and rustic bedsteads.

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The three sons of Valentine Sevier, whose home was on Red River, near the present site of Clarksville, were in a boat rowing toward Nashville when they encountered a party of Indians and were killed. The sad news was borne to their distressed parents by John Price. Was this not enough to stir every soul in the settlement to revenge? These young men had lost an uncle in the battle of King's Mountain.

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The Indians had a great dread of John Sevier, also of his mode of warfare. They gave him the name of "Nolichucky Jack." Some too called him "Little John."

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Evan Shelby, a brother of Isaac Shelby (afterwards first Governor of Kentucky), was killed; also Isaac Bledsoe, a dear friend of Gen. Robertson.

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An old lady named Grandma Hayes lived with her son, Capt. Sam Hayes, near the Hermitage, known as Hayes's Fort. Her older son married a daughter of John Donelson, and thus became a brother-in-law of Andrew Jackson. In the spring of 1793 Samuel had gone for water and was shot by the savages. Old Grandma's negroes were captured and she was left with one crippled servant. He came in to his mistress one morning crying: "Indians!" Mrs. Hayes and her servant opened fire on them and continued firing until the neighbors came to their rescue. Blood was found, which showed that she and her bodyguard had done some work.

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The Shawnees who came from Savannah at one time claimed the lands on the Cumberland. For many years the Shawnees and Cherokees fought each other desperately. At length both nations, fearing a continuation of the bloody



conflict, gave up this beautiful country on the Cumberland, which abounded in game of every description. Gen. Robertson learned that, a century before his time, the Shawnees had returned to their "happy hunting ground." In the year 1710, being again harassed by the Cherokees, they left permanently.

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In the year 1756 Earl Loudon, commander of the king's troops, erected a stone fort on the Tennessee River at the head of navigation, thirty miles from the present site of Knoxville, called Fort Loudon. It was garrisoned by two hundred men. In the spring of 1758 a settlement was established around the fort, which became a village.

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In 1714 a French trader from New Orleans came among the Shawnees who were then living on the Cumberland, and opened trade with that tribe. His store was on a mound near the present site of Nashville, on Lick Branch.

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In 1762 a party of hunters who were hunting on the Clinch River passed through Cumberland Gap and spent the winter on the Cumberland.

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In 1764 Daniel Boone, Samuel Calloway, and Henry Scaggins extended their tour to the lower Cumberland and fixed their station at Mansker's Lick.

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Russell Bean was the first white child born in Tennessee. Bean's Station was named for him. Perhaps he might have been the son of the Mrs. Bean who was captured by the Indians during the encounter at Fort Watauga, and who was afterwards liberated and conveyed to her home by an escort of warriors.

---

One of the last enactments of the State of North Carolina was one establishing Rogersville, in Hawkins County, in 1780, it being the last town organized by North Carolina.

February 28, 1788, Bishop Francis Asbury made a visit to the settlements on the Watauga and held the first conference west of the mountains.

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In 1806 the District of Mero was divided into four counties: Robertson, Montgomery, Dickson, and Stewart. These four counties were constituted one district by the name of Robertson, courts being held at Clarksville. Jackson, Smith, and Wilson Counties constituted the District of Winchester, and courts were held at Carthage. Davidson, Sumner, Williamson, and Rutherford constituted another district, with the seat of justice at Nashville. The District of Hamilton was formed in 1793 from the counties of Jefferson and Knox.

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The State was afterwards divided into five judicial circuits as follows: First circuit, Greene, Washington, Carter, Cocke, and Jefferson Counties; second circuit, Sevier, Blount, Knox, Anderson, Roane, Rhea, and Bledsoe; third circuit, Smith, Warren, Franklin, Sumner, Overton, White, and Jackson; fourth circuit, Davidson, Wilson, Rutherford, Williamson, Maury, Giles, Lincoln, and Bedford; fifth circuit, Montgomery, Dickson, Hickman, Humphreys, Stewart, and Robertson. The act creating these courts went into effect January 5, 1810. Hugh L. White and George W. Campbell were judges of the Supreme Court.

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The first Court of Pleas, held in Washington County February 23, 1778, consisted of John Carter, Chairman; James Robertson, John Sevier, Jacob Womack, Robert Lucas, Andrew Greer, John Shelby, William Bean, George Russell, Zachariah Isbell, John McNabb, William Clark, John McMahan, Benjamin Gist, John Chisholm, Joseph Wilson, William Cobb, Richard White, James Stuart, Valentine Sevier. John Sevier was County Clerk; Valentine Sevier, Sheriff; James Stuart, Surveyor; and John McMahan, Register.

The first session of Washington County Court was held August 15, 1782, Hon. Spruce McCay presiding. Waightstill Avery was appointed Attorney; and John Sevier, Clerk.

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In 1817 the counties of Roane, Rhea, Bledsoe, Marion, McMinn, Hamilton, and Monroe were constituted the seventh circuit. Henry, Carroll, Madison, Shelby, Wayne, Hardeman, Hardin, and Perry were made the eighth circuit in 1821. Perry, Henderson, Carroll, and Henry were constituted the ninth circuit in 1823. Wayne, Hardin, McNairy, Hardeman, Fayette, and Shelby formed the tenth circuit in 1815. Archibald Roane was appointed third judge.

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One of the first acts passed by the Legislature of the State of Franklin was to establish a judicial system. David Campbell was elected Judge of the Superior Court; and Joshua Gist and John Anderson, Assistant Judges.

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In 1788 the government of the State of Franklin ended. In May of that year courts under authority of the State were held at Greenville. Andrew Jackson, John McNairy, David Allison, Archibald Roane, and Joseph Hamilton were licensed as attorneys at law.

## Grants of Land

By Queen Elizabeth and Charles III. in Sixteenth  
and Seventeenth Centuries.

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THE first charter granted English subjects in North America was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Humphrey Gilbert. It was to be of perpetual efficacy, provided the plantation should be occupied six years. It bore date June 11, 1578. Sir Humphrey fitted out boats, manned them with experienced boatmen, and sailed for the island of Newfoundland, with the purpose to plant a colony. He made a mistake by venturing too far north, and was lost in a terrific storm. Thus ended the first adventure. The second grant given by Queen Elizabeth was to Sir Walter Raleigh March 26, 1584. She authorized him to take possession of all unoccupied lands, or those not in possession of Christian people.

Permission was given to each one of the queen's subjects who might accompany Sir Walter to this beautiful new country to settle on the land he might discover; and he, as well as his heirs, empowered to dispose of whatever lands he or they deemed suitable to live upon, according to the laws of England.

Sir Walter Raleigh, being one of the most enterprising as well as adventurous men of his times, dispatched two vessels, under command of Capts. Amandas and Barlow, who selected the course by the Canary and West Indies Islands. They arrived on the American coast July 4, 1584, landing on the island Wocoken. Raleigh's grant was named by Queen Elizabeth "Virginia." Although every precaution was used and every attempt made to settle these grants, all terminated disastrously. At the end of Queen Elizabeth's

reign, in 1603, not an Englishman had made permanent settlement on North American soil. In 1607 a more successful effort was made to establish a colony at Jamestown, in Virginia, investing the company with legislative power, independent of the crown. In 1612 a third grant was conferred upon a company with a more liberal form of government. In 1619 the colonists themselves were allowed a share in legislation. In 1621 a written Constitution was brought out by Sir Francis Wyatt. Under this Constitution each colonist became a free man. This colony extended its southern boundaries to Albemarle Sound. Here the first settlers of North Carolina pitched their tents.

Hearing of the kindness of the people and the excellence of the soil, also of the salubrity of the climate, March 24, 1663, Charles II. made a grant to Edward, Earl of Clarendon (conspicuous in the Restoration). Notwithstanding the extent of this grant, the owners secured another patent, with enlargement of its power. This grant was made June 30, 1665, and included the territory now comprised in the States of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and parts of Florida, Missouri, New Mexico, and California. The line of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes, extending from the top of the Alleghany Mountains to the eastern bank of the Tennessee River, separates Kentucky and Tennessee. Among the powers granted to these lords as proprietors of this immense province were those of dictating a Constitution and laws for the people. This grant was surrendered to the King July 25, 1729, each of the seven receiving twenty-five hundred pounds, besides a small sum for quit rents. Earl Granville, eighth proprietor, relinquished his claim to the right of government, by a commission appointed jointly by the king. He was given his eighth of the land as follows: North by Virginia line, east by the Atlantic, south by latitude thirty degrees. Prior to this the government of North Carolina had been proprietary; after 1729 it became regal, and the province was divided into two governments, North and

South Carolina, in 1732. The Georgia charter, issued in 1732, comprised much of the Carolina grant.

The territory now embraced in Tennessee, from this time until the treaty of Paris, continued the property of the British Government, when all right was relinquished to North Carolina. The descendants of Lord Carteret brought suit just before the war of 1812 against the United States Court for recovery of possession of the District of North Carolina. The history of the establishment of the line thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes as the northern boundary line of North Carolina is as follows: James I., King of England, May 23, 1609, made a grant to Robert, Earl of Salisbury, and numerous others, "of all countries lying in that part of America called Virginia, from the point of land called Point Comfort all along the seacoast to the northward two hundred miles, and from the same Point Comfort to the seacoast southward two hundred miles, all that land from sea to sea." The above was the enlarged grant of the London Land Company, extending along the Atlantic coast from Sandy Hook to Cape Fear, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans.

In 1620 the grant to the Plymouth Company made the fortieth parallel their southern limit, and established that parallel as the northern boundary of Virginia. In March Charles II. made his first grant to the proprietors of Carolina. June 30, 1665, he enlarged this grant to what is famous in history as "Mason and Dixon's Line." The language of the second charter of Charles II. pertains to the lines as follows: "All the province in America extending north and eastward as far north as the Currituck Inlet, west of Wyon Creek about thirty-six degrees north latitude, west as far as South Sea."

The boundary line between North Carolina and Virginia began to be the source of disgusting disagreements, for the reason that the grant of Charles overlapped that of his grandfather, James I. The London Company was dissolved by King James. When this occurred Virginia became a



royal province, hence the settlement of the boundary lines devolved upon the crown and the land proprietors. Commissioners were appointed in 1710 representing the crown and the land proprietors, and they split on a difference of fifteen miles. Against the Carolina commissioners serious charges were made. January 11, 1711, the commissioners failed to agree. They met at Currituck Inlet March 6, 1728. The next step was taken in 1749, when the line was extended westward from Peter's Creek, where Col. Byrd extended the line, to a point on Steep Rock, a distance of three hundred and twenty-nine miles from the coast. Virginia's commissioners were Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson; North Carolina's were Daniel Welden and William Churton. These lines were satisfactory, and remained the boundary line of North Carolina and Virginia, as by treaty of Paris in 1763 the Mississippi River was fixed upon as the western boundary of North Carolina. In 1779, urged by necessity of the western settlement, the Legislatures of North Carolina and Virginia appointed commissioners to extend lines westward. They were Col. Richard Henderson, Dr. Thomas Walker, William B. Smith, and Daniel Smith. The boundary lines remained a disputed question in some points up to the middle of this century.

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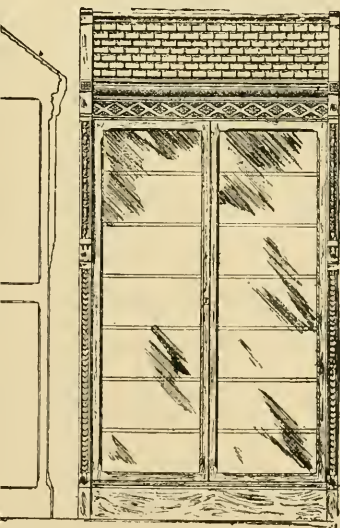
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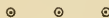
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